

FY2027 Innovative Bride and Transitions Grant FAQ

A complete copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity and a FAQ page can be found at the ICCB website. - <https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/>

1. **To log into Euna, use the same information you use to log into the GATA portal.**
2. **If you experience difficulty accessing the application, please e-mail Euna's Customer Success team directly.** support@il-amplifund.zendesk.com
3. **An applicant must be pre-qualified in GATA prior to any grant application being scored.** If you have not met all of the pre-qualification requirements, your application will **not be scored**. Please go to the GATA portal to view the pre-qualification and other requirements. <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grants/SitePages/CSFA.aspx>

Grantee Pre-qualification: All entities must be qualified to do business with the State of

www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grants/SitePages/CSFA.aspx

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information on Illinois' Covid-19 vaccine plan and vaccination eligibility from the State of Illinois Coronavirus Response Site

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Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance

The Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) is a single, authoritative, statewide, comprehensive source document of State financial assistance program information.

Illinois. To be qualified for a grant award, an entity must:

- Have a valid UEI number;
- Have a current SAM.gov account;
- Not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List;
- Be in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable;
- Not be on the Illinois Stop Payment list;
- Not on the Dept. of Health and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

Pre-qualification status will be verified after Grantee Registration is registered and nightly thereafter. If an entity has a pre-qualification issue, the specific issue and remediation support is provided thru the grantee portal. Entities on the Federal Excluded Parties List are not eligible to do business with the State of Illinois.

1. Q: What is the Euna link to the application?
A: <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/89bf2754-c540-4d22-84f7-ce0711c0360f>
2. Q: Is this grant limited to serve people with disabilities?
A: *No, that is one of four options. It can be used to serve students with disabilities under Objective 4.*
3. Q: Previously, we submitted a proposal but was not chosen, can we submit again?
A: *Yes, with this being a one-year grant, any eligible applicant can apply each year, with or without previous funding.*
4. Q: With only one application per institution, can an organization with multiple locations apply in each location?
A: *No, the institution can only apply once.*
5. Q: Are programs serving prison populations eligible?
A: *Yes, as long as one of the objectives is selected and met during the grant.*
6. Q: Looking to sustain our new efforts beyond the innovation grant year, are there some projects that could be funded by the innovation grant that could not be supported with other grants?
A: *There is a list of examples of allowable grant activities in the NOFO, section 7 on page 5*
7. Q: Do proposals need to address all of the objectives or just one or more?
A: *Each applicant needs to select **only 1 objective**.*
8. Q: Will these funds be available in future fiscal years?
A: *We hope so, but there is no guarantee.*
9. Q: Is it possible to use some of these funds for staff professional development that would lead to better services for students?
A: *Yes, as long as professional development is tied to one of the objectives.*
10. Q: Is this a one-time grant or is there a possibility for funding over 2-3 years if the program needs additional funding to continue to develop what is started and if it resubmits an application?
A: *This grant is only for 15 months. It is possible that the grant will be available again in the future, but not for more than 15 months at a time.*
11. Q: Are equipment costs able to be included in the grant proposal?
A: *Yes, they are.*
12. Q: When is the deadline?
A: *The deadline is October 2, 2026, at 5:00 pm.*
13. Q: Will this webinar be recorded and available to us?
A: *Yes, the link is on this website - <https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/> under the*

FY 27 Innovative Bridge and Transitions Grant Section.

14. Q: With regards to the application narrative, may information provided in a table format be single-spaced?
A: *Yes*
15. Q: Do you want the application narrative in pdf format or in MS Word?
A: *Either format is acceptable as long as it can be opened by our readers.*
16. Q: Are faculty salaries an allowable expense in lieu of charging student tuition?
A: *Faculty salaries are an allowable expense for this grant.*
17. Q: For adults not enrolled in HS, do they need a GED or diploma to participate in the program?
A: *Having a High School Equivalency document is not a requirement for this grant population. However, if the students are also being counted as Adult Education students, grantees will need to follow those pre-set requirements.*
18. Q: If we have previously been awarded an IBT grant in the past, is it allowable to apply for support of the previously awarded program but scaling it in order to serve a larger number of participants?
A: *That is a great way to apply again and demonstrate scaling of the program.*
19. Q: Is preference given to applications that are submitted earlier if all applications are equivalent?
A: *The time of submission does not impact allocation decisions, as long as the submission is prior to the deadline – October 2, 2026, at 5:00 pm.*
20. Q: Are there any budget guidelines?
A: *Please review the NOFO in section 13 for specific details.*
21. Q: Will priority be given to programs that have not been funded previously? And, subsequently, will programs who have been previously funded, be penalized?
A: *No priority or penalty is given to programs that have applied or been awarded previously. Each year, allocations are based on the application for that specific year.*
22. Q: Do the apprenticeships need to be registered with the DOL or can they be non-registered apprenticeship programs?
A: *ICCB does not require apprenticeships be registered with US DOL for this grant.*
23. Q: If we are doing Objective #2, do we need to choose a ,b, c, or d or can we do some of each?
A: *Applicants will need to choose a specific subcategory (i.e., 2a, 2b, 2c, or 2d).*
24. Q: Do letters need to be on partner letterhead? And, is there a minimum or maximum number of partner letters we need to include?
A: *Yes, any reputable partner should have letterhead. We are only requiring a minimum of one partner letter this year. There is no maximum number of partners required. All letters will be uploaded in Euna.*
25. Q: Do you want acronyms spelled out the first time I use them in a new section. I think

often readers might look at one section without looking at a previous section.

A: Spelling out acronyms often is acceptable. We need it spelled out at least one time, at the beginning.

26. Q: Can you fund paid work experiences/paid Internships in a bridge or ICAPS?

A: Yes, that is allowable.

27. Q: Do we need to provide narrative in Euna budget?

A: Not in the Euna section. However, on the Excel file that is uploaded in Euna, applicants need to include a budget narrative for each tab/line in the budget.

28. Q: If our proposal is primarily the development of a Bridge or ICAPS, how do we have a cost per participant? Do we need to pilot the course so that we can serve students?

A: There would not be a "cost per participant" for this type of grant. You will need to indicate at the top of the Performance Measures chart that this is a curriculum development or program development application. If you choose to run a pilot, your budget will be based on the cost per participant for the number of pilot students.

29. Q: Can sections in Euna be uploaded at different times and saved or must all be uploaded in the same session?

A: Yes, information can be plugged in/uploaded and saved and then come back later to do more parts.

30. Q: Is the cost per participant based on the full amount of the funds we receive or the instructional piece?

A: The total allocation amount

31. Q: May we complete the budget using the pdf budget template, or should we only use the excel sheet version of the template?

A: Applicants may use either version of the template provided.

32. Q: What is the minimum number of partners an applicant can have?

A: The minimum number of partnerships required is 1. Partnerships are one of four "Priority Activities" described in the NOFO in section 6 on pages 4-5.

33. Q: Are mentorship programs to help high school-aged students (16 and up) transition to college eligible as part any of the objectives?

A: Yes, that would fit under Objective #2.

34. Are food and t-shirts allowable expenses for our target audience in this year's grant budget?

A: T-shirts and other swag are not allowable. Food can be allowable in certain situations (i.e. part of a training for students is allowable if it is 5 hours or longer, grocery cards are allowable.)

35. We are proposing Pharmacy Tech bridge and CTE training. Would the cost of Pharmacy Tech Certification Exam vouchers be allowable under Objective 1 if purchased before 3/1/27?

A: Yes, the cost of exam vouchers would be allowable.

36. Q: Would it be acceptable for our project to serve adults who have already earned a GED or high school diploma and are enrolled in a credit-bearing community college program, but

who are underemployed and need to transfer to a baccalaureate institution and earn a bachelor's degree in order to find employment in a high skill, high wage occupation?

A: This would be an acceptable population to serve and this would fit well in Objective 2.

37. Q: Where can we find information about stipends?

A: At the top of this page - <https://www.iccb.org/grants/grant-resources> Look for the document named "Guidance for Student Stipends within Grant Programs"

38. Q: We have not received funding before so don't have to fill out the duplication chart-- can I delete the chart to save space or does it need to stay in the narrative template?

A: Please leave the chart in the Narrative. Programs are welcome to reduce it as much as possible, but the chart needs to remain blank so readers know there was no previous funding through this grant.

39. Q: I know the narrative text has to be 12 pt font, double spaced. Does this apply to text within a chart I'm including in the narrative? Or can that font/spacing be adjusted to fit the chart as long as it's legible?

A: Charts and graphs can be single spaced. The font size needs to be no smaller than 10 point.

40. Q: For application components requiring an "Original Signature," do we need to print, sign with ink, and then scan the documents back to PDF? Or would an Adobe signature qualify as an original signature?

A: Either way is acceptable. Electronic signatures have become allowable in recent years.

41. Q: How do we include adjunct stipends and fringe benefits for PD training in the GATA budget? Should these items be included under Personnel and Fringe Benefits or should both costs be listed under Training & Education?

A: These costs would all be included in the Personnel and Fringe lines as this is for time worked. The actual training costs (fees, registration, etc.) would be in the Training & Education line.

42. Q: Regarding budget certification, I am planning to submit the Excel version of our budget per the guidance and FAQ. How should we add the certification signature if we are not submitting via PDF?

A: Signatures are acceptable in the following options:

1 – You can add a signature box through Adobe and sign electronically

2 – Print, wet sign, scan, save, upload in Euna

3 – Copy and paste a signature image file

***NOTE: Be sure these are signed by an authorized party.*

43. Q: Who should partner address letters of support to?

A: Please address support letters to: "Innovative Bridge and Transitions Grant"

44. Q: We are completing the IBT grant application and would like to provide tuition for IET students, but I am unsure what budget line to enter it in. Is student tuition in "Education and Training" (which I thought refers to staff education and training, not students'), or in "Miscellaneous Costs"?

A: Tuition belongs in the "Miscellaneous" line. You are correct that "Education and Training" is for staff education and training, not students.

45. Q: We have a question regarding the target population. Does the target population requirement refer to new students or can it apply to students that we are currently serving?
A: *The target population requirement applies to both new and current students.*
63. Q: I am interested in the Innovative Bridge and Transitions Program and was wondering if private entities are eligible partners and subrecipients for this program.
A: *Please see section 3 page 2 of the NOFO. If your entity falls under one or more of those categories, then you are eligible to apply.*
64. Q: What is the difference between “supplant” and “supplement”?
A: *Supplanting is when “new” dollars are used to replace already budgeted dollars. Supplementing is adding dollars to what is already budgeted. For example, **supplanting** would be having 10 textbooks already in your Adult Education grant budget. Then, moving that money to personnel and putting the cost of all 20 textbooks in the IBT grant budget, which is not allowable. **Supplementing** is having 10 textbooks in the AE grant budget, leaving them, and paying for the additional 10 textbooks from the IBT grant budget, which is allowable.*
65. Q: Is it accurate that we can select an objective BUT have a component of the other objectives? i.e., we choose objective 1, but include serving individuals with disabilities.
A: *Yes*
66. Q: Is tuition expense assistance allowable?
A: *Yes*
67. Q: Is there a minimum request of funding?
A: *Yes, details are explained in the NOFO on pages 12-13 under Sections 13, Funding Information.*
68. Q: If we choose for example goal 1 with the intention to develop new ICAPS programs, but we also budget for wraparound support for all students, not just those going into the new ICAPS programs, 1. would that be allowed? 2. who do we count for students served for the IBT grant? Just the ICAPS students or all students who received wraparound support?
A: *If you select Objective 1, that is your primary focus for the grant cycle. This means you would only count, and serve, the students in the ICAPS. If your primary goal is wrap-around support, then you would need to choose Objective 3 instead.*
69. Q: How are funding award levels determined?
A: *Yes, details are explained in the NOFO on pages 12-13 under Sections 13, Funding Information.*
70. Q: Is there a max cost per participant?
A: *Yes, details are explained in the NOFO on pages 12-13 under Sections 13, Funding Information.*

71. Q: is de minimis still 10% or is it now 15%

A: *De minimis is explained in the NOFO on page 13. It is currently at 15% depending on your program's status.*

72. Q: Can we know our scores?

A: *Applicants that are not funded can request scores following allocation.*

73. Q: Will you provide applicants with the scored rubric upon award or non-award?

A: *The ICCB does not share the rubric document. Upon written request, we will share scores and comments from readers as to why points were deducted.*

74. Q: For Objective 2a, can you please confirm whether noncredit training programs can be supported with grant funds? Some of our professional noncredit trainings like phlebotomy place students on a healthcare pathway that could lead to other credit-bearing training programs in the future.

A: Yes.

75. Q: Where can I find more information about the VEDA system?

A: *The VEDA system is a data base for tracking student data and participation. Training will be provided on the system to any programs allocated funding for Objective 2d. It is an already established data collection site used within other grant opportunities.*

76. Q: If we choose Objective 3, can we cover tuition for continuing education and training classes that transition students into employment?

A: Yes.

77. Q: If the project is be eligible if they do not partner with colleges. If the program is strictly a pre-apprenticeship to employment pathway program.

A: *Yes, this program would be eligible.*

78. Q: Do we have to keep the formatting (such as the boxes around each section) or is it permissible to remove those boxes while still keeping the required sections in the same order and with the proper headers?

A: *The boxes can be removed, but everything needs to stay in the same order with the same headers.*

79. Q: Do you happen to have a new performance measures chart? Or can I use my copy from the current year, FY26?

A: *Applicants should not use the same document in FY27 as in FY26 as grantees should have different activities each year. The form needed is in Euna in the forms section of the application. Go there, download the form, complete it, and then upload it into Euna.*

80. Q: Will we be asked to complete the Innovative Bridge and Transition Grants Data Survey at the end of the grant period?

A: Yes. All grantees will need to collect and report student data at the end of the grant period.

81. Q: Can our institution which serves as the umbrella organization for these 2 separate departments submit 2 separate proposals?

A: No, two departments within the same institution is still the same institution.

82. Q: This year, it says that the range of the award is \$75,000 - \$375,000. Does that mean that you cannot exceed the \$375,000 for a request?

If so, using the maximum award per participant guideline of \$4500, that would mean that the maximum number of participants served would be 83 or (\$375k divided by \$4500) is that correct?

A: Funding will not be awarded over \$375,000. If you request more this will cause problems for both ICCB and your program.

83. Q: Does ICCB have any guidance or preferred terminology for grant narratives when referencing e.g. immigrants, refugees, asylees/asylum seekers, diversity, inclusion, and related topics?

A: For immigrants, refugees, asylees/asylum seekers, etc. please use English Language Learners. For Diversity and Inclusion, we do not have any preference, please feel free to use terminology you see fit.

84. Q: It was stated in the recording that the cover page must be "wet signed" or electronically signed, however when looking at the template, there is a place to type your name and date at the bottom and not a signature line. If we type our name and fill in the date, does this meet the requirement of what was stated on the recording?

A: Yes this does meet the requirement.

85. Q: Who should the contacts be when adding contacts to Euna and our application?

A: Applicants should include contact details for individuals who directly work with the grant on both the programmatic and fiscal side.

86. Q: What is the award range for this grant?

A: Please see page 2, section 1, #13 of the NOFO

87. Q: If we presently have the FY26 IBT grant, can we apply for FY27, even though the two grants periods will overlap a couple months?

A: Yes, you can apply even if you have the current year's grant. Please note, each year is a different grant contract, and cycle should you be awarded both.

88. Q: Under Objective 4, may time-limited employer wage subsidies that support competitive integrated employment placements for participating students with disabilities be budgeted as Grant Exclusive student support, or should they be budgeted under another allowable category?

A: If the student subsidies are direct to the student, you would put them in the grant exclusive category. If they are subsidizing through the employer, will fall under contractual (note that an appropriate instrument between the college and employer is necessary to reflect the arrangement is required). You can only subsidize pay-periods within the grant term.

89. Q: We are considering using a portion of the program funds to employ participating students as student workers while they receive additional academic support.

Would using program funds in this way be an allowable expense, provided that the student employment is connected to and supports the students' academic success?

A: Our strong recommendation is to provide stipends to the students. Please see stipend guidance found here: [click here for student stipend guidance](#).

90. Q: May an eligible grantee include a for-profit small business as a paid subcontractor to provide supportive services such as participant capacity assessments, workshops, coaching, curriculum delivery, implementation support and program evaluation?

A: Yes, they can be a subcontractor. However, the organization must be a direct provider of services to individuals. The support services cannot be a stand-alone service. The organization must be part of a larger program. The larger program for which supportive services will be offered needs to be identified and explained in the narrative.

91. Q: If question 90 is permitted, should those expenses be included under contractual services in the proposed application budget, and must the proposed subcontractor and scope of work be identified in the original application?

A: Yes, they are to be included in the contractual category. The applicant must have the budget and scope of work for the subcontractor available should ICCB request it.

92. Q: May grant funds be used to license or adapt a subcontractor's pre-existing proprietary curriculum, frameworks, assessments or other intellectual property for use within the funded program?

A: Generally speaking, this would not be allowable without further information/explanation.

93. Q: The NOFO states that resources and products developed with grant funds must be provided to ICCB for sharing with the field. Does this requirement apply only to new materials developed with IBT funding, while excluding intellectual property that the subcontractor created and owned before the grant?

A: Yes, this applies only to new materials.

94. Q: If pre-existing intellectual property is used, may the subcontractor retain ownership and provide the grantee with a limited license for the approved program? What documentation or language would ICCB require to distinguish pre-existing materials from grant-funded deliverables?

A: See #93